

**ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL-MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA CHAPTER
HOLD ANNUAL RIZAL YOUTH INTER-SCHOOL ACADEMIC, TALENT & SKILLS COMPETITION
IN MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

The Order of the Knights of Rizal-Middle East and Africa Chapter (OKOR-MEAR) held its annual Rizal Youth Inter School-Academic, Talent and Skills Competition for Philippine Community Schools in the Gulf at the Swiss International Hotel in downtown Manama during the recent Eid'ul Adha holiday break.

Five schools from the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar pitted talents and knowledge of Jose Rizal as well as in Philippine history and current affairs as they competed in the Battle of the Brains Academic Quiz Show, English and Pilipino Essay Writing Contest and an On-the-Spot Painting Contest. The highlight of the competition was the Young Jose Rizal and Young Maria Clara Talent, Oration and Pageant. Crowned as Young Jose Rizal was Xandre Immanuel C. Acosta while the Young Maria Clara winner was Hannah Ma. Danielle T. Leanda. Both Xandre and Hannah are student so the Philippine School Doha Qatar.

The teams came from the Philippine School Bahrain, Philippine School Doha Qatar, and Palm Crest International School in Riyadh, KSA, and Al Andalus International School in Dammam, KSA and Al Majd International School also in Dammam, KSA. Defending Champion, Philippine School Doha Qatar bucked visa issues, a 1-day air travel and more than the usual airfare rates to repeat as Overall Champions and permanently bring home the Champions trophy.

The OKOR-KEAR Inter-school Rizal competitions has become a much-awaited event for the different Philippine Schools in the region and is now going on its 15th year of promoting and inculcating the life, memory and works of the Philippine National hero to the Filipino students in diaspora. The event coincided with the 17th OKOR-MEAR General Assembly and fellowship held to map out plans for the organization in the coming years.

The OKOR-MEAR Regional Commander Sir Dr. Zane M. Thirwall, with the rank of Knight Grand Cross of Rizal and Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain Alfonso Ver, himself a Knight Commander of the OKOR led the contest and festivities.



Members of the Philippine School Doha Qatar show the Overall Champions Trophy as the individual members show their respective medals and certificates.



Commemorative Photo of the winner of the 2017 Young Jose Rizal (not in photo) and Young Maria Clara (first row, center) Ms. Hannah Ma. Danielle T. Leanda.



Members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal Middle East & Africa Region and their families pose for souvenir shot after the Rizal Inter-school contest. In the center is the Young Maria Clara winner. Back row standing 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th from left are Former Supreme Commander Jesus B. David (visiting from the Philippines), Deputy Supreme Commander Ernest D. Santos (visiting from the Philippines), Ambassador Alfonso Ver and MEAR Regional Commander Zane Thirwall, respectively.